CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of performing a file walk of a storage server comprising:

   determining a first path and a second path on the storage server;

   collecting first information about the first path using a first agent;

   collecting second information about the second path using a second agent; and

   storing the first and second information using a common format.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein determining a first path and a second path comprises dividing a directory structure into the first path and the second path.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the first agent uses a first file system and the second agent uses a second file system, and wherein the first file system is different from the second file system.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the first file system comprises a network file system (NFS) and the second file system comprises a common Internet file system (CIFS).

5. The method of claim 1, wherein storing further comprises storing the first and second information on a database server.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein storing comprises storing the first and the second information in a first and a second table.

7.   The method of claim 1, wherein storing comprises storing the first and the second information in a histogram.

8.   The method of claim 6, further comprising combining the first and the second table into a third table.

9.   An storage system, comprising:

a storage server coupled to a volume having a first path and a second path;

a first agent coupled to the storage server, the first agent to scan the first path to collect first information;

a second agent coupled to the storage server, the second agent to scan the second path to collect second information; and

a database server coupled to the agent, the database server to store the first and the second information.

10.   The storage system of claim 9, further comprising:

a multi-appliance management application (MMA) coupled to the storage server and the first and second agents, the MMA to control the first and second agent.

11.   The storage system of claim 10, wherein the MMA generates a graphical user interface (GUI).

12. The storage system of claim 9, wherein the first and second paths each represent a portion of a directory structure of the volume.

13. The storage system of claim 9, wherein the database server stores the first and second information as a table.

14. The storage system of claim 9, wherein the database server stores the first and the second information as a histogram.

15. The storage system of claim 9, wherein the first agent includes a first file system, and the second agent includes a second file system different from the first file system.

16. A machine readable medium having stored thereon executable program code which, when executed, causes a machine to perform a method of performing a file walk of a storage server, the method comprising:

      determining a first path and a second path on the storage server;

      collecting first information about the first path using a first agent;

      collecting second information about the second path using a second agent; and

      storing the first and second information using a common format.

17.   The machine readable medium of claim 16, wherein determining a first path and a second path comprises dividing a directory structure into the first path and the second path.

18.   The machine readable medium of claim 16, wherein the first agent uses a first file system and the second agent uses a second file system, and wherein the first file system is different from the second file system.

19.   The machine readable medium of claim 16, wherein the first file system comprises a network file system (NFS) and the second file system comprises a common Internet file system (CIFS).

20.   The machine readable medium of claim 16, wherein storing further comprises storing the first and the second information on a database server.

21.   The machine readable medium of claim 16, wherein storing comprises storing the first and the second information in a first and a second table.

22.   The machine readable medium of claim 16, wherein storing comprises storing the first and the second information in a histogram.

23.   The machine readable medium of claim 21, further comprising combining the first and the second table into a third table.

24.   A method of performing a file walk of a file server comprising:

determining a first path comprising a first subset of a directory structure of the file server;

determining a second path comprising a second subset of the directory structure of the file server;

scanning the first path using a first agent to collect first information about the first path;

scanning the second path using a second agent to collect second information about the second path;

generating a first summary and a second summary based on the first and second information; and

storing the first and second summary on a database server using a common format.

25.   The method of claim 24, wherein the first agent uses a first file system, and the second agent uses a second file system different from the first file system.

26.   The method of claim 25, wherein the file server uses a third file system different from one of the first or second file systems.

27.   The method of claim 24, wherein storing further comprises storing the first and second summary in a table.

28.   The method of claim 24, wherein storing further comprises storing the first and second summary using a histogram.